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PUBLIC NOTICE

Availability of the Draft Arid West Regional Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Public Notice No.: 200501975-BAH
Comment Period: September 2, 2005 through December 5, 2005
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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, announces the availability of the Draft Arid West Regional Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987). This draft was developed by regional expert delineators with input from state and Federal agencies, academia and other local experts. It is being peer reviewed by a panel of independent scientists, the report from which will be available upon request. This draft is also being field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal agencies to determine the clarity and ease of use of the document and whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland jurisdiction for Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes

We are specifically seeking public input, including scientific information/data, on the proposed hydrology, soils and vegetation indicators and data collection procedures in this draft document. Reviewers may wish to field test this manual as part of the public comment procedure. The protocol for this testing is to perform wetland delineations using both the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and this draft regional supplement on the same data points. Reviewers should include data sheets from both the manual and draft supplement, maps indicating data collection points (upland and wetland) and a completed questionnaire for each delineation point. The draft, along with the testing protocol and questionnaire, may be located at

http://erdc-ftp.wes.army.mil/pub/outgoing/wakeley/wetlands/Arid_West/

The public comment period for this draft supplement has been extended to **December 5, 2005**, and comments should be sent to Ms. Katherine Trott (CECW-LRD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000 or by e-mail to 1987Manual@usace.army.mil. Another public notice will be issued by this district announcing the publication of the final supplement and the implementation date of this supplement.

For additional information please call Bruce A. Henderson or my staff at (805) 585-2145. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.